

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 8th April 1876.

ADVERTING to the general unhealthiness of Mymensingh, which is believed to be due to the gradual silting up of the Brahmaputra, the *Suhrid*, of the 28th March, directs the attention of the local Road-cess Committee to the expediency of dredging that river, charging the outlay on the funds at their disposal. If the channel of the river be set open, a great impetus would be given to the trade of these parts.

SUHRID,  
March 28th, 1876.

2. We make the following extracts from an article in the same paper entitled,—“Why is there any distinction between white and black subjects?” The system of Government adopted by the ancient Aryan kings of India was not at all inferior to that of any modern civilized nations. A comparison between the two would rather be favorable to the former. The Brahmins indeed monopolized all power in the administration, but there is nothing to show that justice was not equally and impartially administered to a Sudra as well as to a Brahmin. Under the Mahomedans, oppression did indeed prevail, but even then the rulers made no invidious distinctions between the conquered people and those of their own race. With all its serious faults, such as an absence of religious toleration, to which is chiefly due the present degraded condition of the Aryans in India, the Mahomedan rule was favorable to the Hindus, as it regarded appointments to the Public service and the impartial administration of justice.

SUHRID.

The present British administration has been productive of peace and happiness. Among the people themselves justice is impartially administered, but it is extremely to be regretted that in regard to most questions between the white and black subjects, the state of things is far from satisfactory. The officials are more careful to promote the interests of persons of their own race than those of the natives, and there is a lack of sympathy manifested towards the latter. It is this which leads many to censure the British Government.

3. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 29th March, makes the following observations on the proposal of the Government of India to establish a number of model farms in the country. The proposal is indeed a good one; but how far the object aimed at will be attained by Government taking the management into its own hands, remains to be seen, for it is doubtful whether the funds likely to be employed by Government in carrying out the work will ever be within the reach of the generality of the cultivators, or even of the zemindars. There are model cotton farms belonging to Government in different parts of India. But the peasantry have not yet, to any large extent, adopted the methods followed in them. What certainty

HINDU RANJIKA,  
March 29th, 1876.



is there, then, that they will adopt the expensive and elaborate system of agriculture proposed to be carried on in the farms? Now, it is a fact that the peasantry of Bengal manifest an ardent desire to grow good and profitable articles. The cultivation of the potato will illustrate what we say. In fact, the native peasantry are never found unwilling to grow any crop which may be produced by simple means, and do not shrink from any labor, if it promises to be profitable. But in all that is done by Government there is more of show than likelihood of success, and we are afraid that this elaborate and pompous affair will not suit the simple tastes and habits of the native peasantry. Should Government, however, succeed in producing, by a skilled system of agriculture, a greater variety of crops on any piece of land than what it now produces, the peasantry will be induced to copy the system, even though it be costly at the outset.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
March 29th, 1876.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 29th March, writes the following in an editorial headed,—“A proposal to take away the freedom of the newspaper press.” By proposing to deprive the newspaper press in India of its liberty, Government has betrayed a singular want of good taste, at a time when the loyal rejoicings of the natives of India, consequent on the visit of the Prince, can be hardly said to have ceased, and when the Queen, as a proof of her faith in the loyalty and devotion of her Indian subjects, is about to assume the title of “Empress of India.” What has India done to deserve this gross outrage? We admit that there are some papers which occasionally employ strong language, but is not the existing law sufficient to check the evil? They indeed often write things disagreeable to Government, but does not that indirectly do good? It is but natural to man to give expression to his feelings when he is oppressed or distressed. There is no good in concealing them. And what will Government gain by depriving the newspaper press of its liberty? The native periodicals are powerless as regards the highest and the lowest classes of native society. They are read and valued by men who have the greatest interest in the continuance and well-being of the British Government. Again, Government may indeed deny this liberty to the native press, but will hardly profit thereby, seeing that it will not be able to gag the English newspapers. There are occasions, however, when it becomes advisable to revoke this privilege, as, for instance, when wars are raging; but it is anything but wise to propose to have recourse to the measure in this time of profound peace.

BHARAT MIHIR.

5. The same paper writes, in an article on the “Causes of discontent among us,” that it is grievous to see a nation that boasts of its civilization, liberal sentiments, and sense of justice do acts which are contrary to all their professions. The case would have been quite different if we had not confided in them. The oppressions of the Mahomedans lost much of their cruelty from the fact that we were prepared for them, and did not expect anything better from that uncivilized people. At the present time, however, the people of India have learnt to value their rights, their aspirations have been elevated, and they have become desirous to stand on an equal footing with Englishmen, and so our interests have grown antagonistic to those of our rulers. Do we not meet with hundreds of instances every day in which our hopes and aspirations are not gratified simply, because they happen to clash with those of Englishmen? The sword of the heroic and warlike Scindia is rusting into decay, the lustre of his genius and his energy are gradually waning; for he has no share in the administration of India, save in his little kingdom. His loyalty to the British crown has been rewarded by depriving him of the fort of Gwalior, and are not hundreds of Bengalis, Maharattas, Sikhs, and



Rajpoots thus gradually losing their learning, intelligence, and activity? Foreigners have taken possession of their kingdom and deprived the children of the soil of all their rights. When, moreover, we see the different policy pursued in respect of the whites and the blacks, when we see that one is rewarded for doing that for which the other is punished, and when we see the one maltreating the other, what heart, however unfeeling it may be, is not stung to the quick?

6. The same paper writes in a lengthy article on "Native Civilians:"—We do not say that the native civilians have no faults. They are impatient and hot-headed, and are apt to attach an undue importance to their official position. But it is not for their faults alone that they suffer; their virtues too—their independent bearing and conscientiousness in the discharge of duty are the causes of their misfortunes. Yet the ungenerousness and the jealousy of the European civilians are chiefly accountable for this state of things. There can be no fair competition between the strong Englishman and the weak Bengali, and the evil is aggravated by the jealousy, undue pride, and ill-feeling towards the natives which are generally found in the English officials, and which constantly bring about misunderstandings between the two races.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
March 29th, 1876.

7. A correspondent of the same paper writes to say that the rules recently made by the Lieutenant-Governor for the levy of a tax on privies in Chittagong, if followed by the local municipality, will occasion extreme inconvenience and trouble to the inhabitants, the majority of whom are poor. The rate of the tax is high, and will press heavily on them. The rule requiring the inhabitants to deposit the filth and refuse of their dwelling houses on the public streets will also prove extremely annoying, as the houses of many are removed far back from the streets.

BHARAT MIHIR.

8. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 30th March, observes that Government should be exceedingly careful in selecting proper persons for the office of Superintendent in the reformatory schools. They should have all the qualifications which are required in a missionary, and should strive, by their noble example, to reform the character of the juvenile criminals.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
March 30th, 1876.

9. The same paper elsewhere remarks:—We have become extremely dissatisfied with the Government owing to suspicion of its duplicity at the present time. Plain speaking would be relished with great pleasure. It is difficult to ascertain their motives at the present moment, when two such Bills as the Calcutta Municipal Bill and the Presidency Magistrates' Bill, which are perfectly opposed to each other, are about to be passed. While by the introduction of the elective system into the Calcutta municipality, the rate-payers of the metropolis have a very great privilege, the other indirectly denies it them by subjecting them to the arbitrary power of certain individuals. It is really difficult to reconcile these.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA.

10. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 30th March, writes the following in its opening editorial on Lord Northbrook:—Lord Northbrook will leave India within a few days. Heaven knows whether he was a good or bad man; but it is a fact that the advent of no other Governor-General filled the people of India with such high expectations, in which no other Viceroy disappointed them to an equal degree. There can be no doubt that by saving Bengal from the severe administration of Sir George Campbell, and putting a veto on the Municipal Bill, Lord Northbrook conferred a great benefit on the country, for which the people of Bengal will ever remain grateful to him. But with the exception of this measure, his other acts have disappointed us.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
March 30th, 1876.



The abolition of the income-tax was the first measure of his administration. Doubts exist as to whether this measure has proved beneficial or otherwise. In our opinion, the abolition of the income tax has been a disadvantage. We believe that the country will not prosper so long as the English and the natives are not united : and the imposition of that tax brought about this union to some extent. While it was in force, Englishmen, Hindus, and Mahomedans all united together to discuss the acts of Government, and there was no difference in the privileges respectively enjoyed by the *Englishman*, the *Daily News*, the *Pioneer*, and the native papers. Any shortcoming on the part of Government was protested against by all, and Government could not remain indifferent to their united protest. We made efforts to exercise an influence on the administration. Government was obliged to publish its accounts and other financial papers. Its attention was directed to the Public Works Department, and considerable retrenchments were made in several of its departments. And the good did not stop here. The loud complaints of India reached England. Parliament was led to pay greater attention to Indian affairs, and a commission was appointed to enquire into the financial and other matters relating to India. India made progress at railway speed during the few years that the income-tax was levied, and we cannot tell what good she might have attained to had the stream of progress flowed on with equal rapidity up to this time. Lord Northbrook impeded its progress. He, indeed, knew that the income-tax affected only the rich, who were easily able to pay it, and its abolition exempted most of that class from any tax, while they continued to enjoy all the benefits of Government. His Excellency also knew that the agitation in opposition to the tax proceeded from a number of interested persons only ; still he abolished it. The evil, however, did not stop here. The road-cess was shortly afterwards introduced. Lord Northbrook, indeed, did not impose this cess, for it was determined by the Secretary of State ; but had he made any efforts, he might have easily saved the country from this dreadful impost. Had he labored as earnestly to prevent the road-cess as he did to abolish the income-tax, Bengal, impoverished, would not now be groaning under it. But he was shrewd, and considered that by winning the favor of the dominant classes, who were affected by the tax, he might reign in peace ; the road-cess touched only the poorer classes of the people. He earned fame by abolishing the former, while the imposition of the latter has produced dire mischief in the country. A little before his coming to India, Mr. Stephen had introduced the new Criminal Procedure Code. The English Government has ruined the country by passing this Act. All other losses may be made up in time, but a people who lose their honor, self-respect, and independence have no hope of prosperity. Mr. Stephen brought about this sad state of things, and the natives were trembling before the Criminal Procedure Code when Lord Northbrook arrived in India. His advent filled them with high hopes, and they memorialized him to repeal this Act. He could have easily met their wishes, but chose to put them off with sweet words. Lord Northbrook is now about to introduce this Act into Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. The trials of Baboo Surrendra Nath Banerjee and Mr. Levien took place during his administration. This also did not give the natives an opportunity of discerning whether he really wished well of them. We shall not now refer to the injustice perpetrated in connection with Baroda. The following events of importance have occurred during Lord Northbrook's administration : (1) the abolition of the income-tax ; (2) the imposition of the road-cess ; (3) the passing of



the new Criminal Procedure Code; (4) the outbreak of the fearful disputes between landlords and tenants; (5) an increase of the rigors of the jail a thousandfold; (6) alteration in the system of university examinations; (7) native authors deprived of their bread; (8) a monopoly of supplying books for the schools given to Mr. Lethbridge and some other Englishmen; (9) the vetoing of Sir George Campbell's municipal law; (10) the passing of the Tariff Act; (11) a native appointed as *attaché* to Government; (12) the translation of native newspapers into English has in a manner been given up (13) the Yarkand Embassy; (14) the Burmese Embassy of Sir D. Forsyth; (15) the dishonor and murder of Mr. Margaray; (16) the confinement of his son by the Amir of Cabul; (17) the expedition against the Nagas; (18) the deposition of the Guicowar of Baroda, and the visit of the Prince of Wales; (19) the Dramatic Performances' Bill; (20) the passing of the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Act; (21) the Presidency Magistrates' Bill.

A glance at this list will call to mind whether these measures have been beneficial or otherwise to the country, and many will be doubtless able to judge whether the person during whose administration such measures have been accomplished was or was not really a well-wisher of the country.

11. In the course of his remarks on a case recently tried in Chittagong, in which a tea-planter, Mr. Webster, was fined by the Magistrate for shooting at some natives, the same paper writes:—The natives have an impression that, like the indigo-planters, the tea-planters also commit fearful oppressions. Government should make enquiries to ascertain whether there are any grounds for this impression. From not having attended to the oppressions of the indigo-planters in time, Government at last felt that it had not acted in a friendly way towards them; for if their oppressions had been checked at the outset, they could not have harassed the peasantry, nor would the latter, a naturally peaceful race, have stood up against them. And not only were the *Kutheáls* ruined by this want of foresight on the part of Government, but an important industry also ceased to exist in Bengal. If the tea-planters have become oppressive, Government should for their sake, if not for any other, attend to their doings. Who knows that a want of attention now will afterwards bring loss to the tea-planters of Assam, as was the case with the indigo-planters of Bengal? The country will also suffer in that case.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
March 30th, 1876.

12. In reference to the eagerness of educated natives to join the bar, though it is already over-stocked, the *Education Gazette*, of the 31st March, advises them to betake themselves to some other profession where they can earn a decent livelihood. Government also is asked to assist them in this work by relaxing the present rule requiring those who have passed the B.L. examination to join the bar within a specified time. By this means they will be enabled to seek admission into some other profession, while yet at liberty to take to the law if they choose.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
March 31st, 1876.

13. The *Grámbartha Prakáshiká*, of the 1st April, notices a fearful outbreak of cholera all over the country at the present moment. People are dying in great numbers for want of medicine and proper treatment. Government is besought to attend to the subject and send medical aid to the afflicted without delay.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
April 1st, 1876.

14. Adverting to the unaccountable mortality in the Bengal Education Department, and the fact that most of its officers, whose learning makes them the fittest persons to teach, are doing the work of Inspectors of Schools, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 1st April, suggests that Government should

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
April 1st, 1876.



appoint such officers for instance, as Messrs. Clarke, Croft, and Garrett to the colleges. The duties of Inspector can be well performed by natives; or if it is thought proper to employ Europeans for the purpose, the appointment of such men as Dr. Robson and Messrs. Hand and Parry will exactly meet the requirements of the office.

HINDU HITOSHINI,  
April 1st, 1876.

15. The same paper remarks that the recent circular of the High Court, relating to letters of administration under Act XL of 1858, will entail considerable inconvenience in the case of poor but respectable native females, who are neither prepared to go to the court, nor can afford to pay the expenses required in executing a power-of-attorney. It is hoped that the High Court will reconsider the subject.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 2nd, 1876.

16. In dwelling on the administrative measures of Lord Northbrook, the *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 2nd April, remarks:—Few acts have been performed by Lord Northbrook which could inspire the minds of Her Majesty's subjects in India with gratitude or loyalty, while instances have not been wanting which might produce even dissatisfaction. Among his few beneficent acts may be mentioned the abolition of the income-tax, vetoing the Municipal Bill of Sir George Campbell, and lastly, the suppression of the famine. Among the acts of an opposite tendency, we may refer to the Baroda affair and the unjust deposition of Mulharao Guicowar, and the Tariff Act also to some extent. In forming an estimate of his official career, his dealings with Sir Salar Jung, and the hostile attitude that has been manifested to the newspaper press in India during the whole period of his administration, are also to be taken into consideration. Yet it is to be regretted that the ungenerous tone of the despatches of the Secretary of State has led to his premature resignation of office.

SADHARANI,  
April 2nd, 1876.

17. The *Sádháraní*, of the 2nd April, makes the following observations on the Agrarian Disputes' Bill:—We cannot expect that the Bill will succeed in preventing all serious agrarian disputes in future. All that can possibly be expected from it is, that disputes of this sort will be henceforth settled in a short time, without there being any need to have recourse to the tardy and elaborate procedure of the civil courts. But we can never expect to see an end of the rent disputes so long as the principles of the rent law are not made quite simple.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
April 3rd, 1876.

18. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 3rd April, says:—We had feared that, being a devoted adherent of the Secretary of State, Lord Lytton would not have the courage to act independently. But his clever reply to the deputation of the Manchester merchants has partially removed our fears, so that we may hope that after his stay in India for some time he will be endeared to the country, and will then be led to pay greater regard to its interests than to those of England.

SOMA PRAKASH.

19. Admirable is the policy of the British Government in India, says the same paper. It makes the country itself pay the expenses incurred in the administration of justice, and the protection of the life and property of the subjects, on railways, public works, and the Postal Department. There are also the stamp fees and the postage stamps, the road cess and other imposts. The English Government should no longer saddle India with debts and taxation, which are contrary to all morality. The monopolies in opium and salt are extremely sinful, and were they not productive of revenues which go to meet the home charges, they would doubtless have been given up by this time.



20. A strange fatality, says the same paper, seems to characterize almost all the chief administrative measures of Lord Northbrook. He has been singularly unfortunate; even his praiseworthy acts have been censured by the public. By introducing the Presidency Magistrates' Bill and the Dramatic Performances' Bill, by the deposing of Mulharao Guicowar and the passing of the Tariff Act, he has laid himself open to adverse criticism. It is a matter of extreme regret, however, that he retires bearing on his shoulders reproach and disgrace. India should show gratitude to him for his successful exertions to suppress the famine.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
April 3rd, 1876.

21. The same paper suggests that now, when Her Majesty is about to assume the title of "Empress of India," the auspicious occasion should be signalized by releasing the well-known prisoners Ram Sing, the head of the Kukas, and Nabín Chandra Banerjee, from their confinement.

SOMA PRAKASH.

22. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd April, notices it as a significant fact, that Government has been for the last few years constantly seeking to curtail the powers of the High Court, in whose impartiality and integrity the people have an unbounded confidence. The passing of the new Criminal Procedure Code was the first effectual step in this direction, and the introduction of the Presidency Magistrates' Bill threatens to produce more injurious consequences. Should this Bill become law, the citizens of Calcutta would be deprived of all liberty. The Bill has been opposed on all sides, and it behoves Government to lay it aside.

SAHACHAR,  
April 3rd, 1876.

23. The *Sáptáhhik Samáchár*, of the 4th April, pays the following compliment to the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Phear. We are sincerely sorry to learn that Mr. Justice Phear will shortly retire from office. His impartiality and fearlessness made him an ornament of the judicial service. He held the scales of justice with a firm and even hand, and regardless of the consequences, delivered judgments in accordance with law and justice to the best of his ability. We do not say that his judgments were free from error, for nothing can be free from error in this world. But every one will openly testify to his impartiality and love of justice.

SAPTÁHHIK SAMACHAR,  
April 4th, 1876.

24. The *Behár Bandhu* learns from a friend at Gya that in addition to the *amlah* placing obstacles in the way of the introduction of the *Nágrí* character into courts, the vakeels, too, have followed in their wake. When asked by a client to file the plaint in *Nágrí*, they first object, on the ground that it is not the practice. If this plea fails, they then state the judge does not like it, and, if persisted in, the suit will fail; any farther argument results in the vakeel threatening to give up the conduct of the case, till at length the client becomes exhausted and consents to having his plaint filed in Persian. On this the editor remarks that Patna, too, is in the same condition, where there are Bengali vakeels, who for the sake of fees have become enemies to the *Nágrí* character. In Gya, however, some *Káyastha* vakeels and muktears are to be found who are favorably inclined to Hindi.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
April 5th, 1876.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 8th April 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,  
Government Bengali Translator.



*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
8th April 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	16th March 1876.
2	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensing	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
3	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájshahye ...	Ditto ...	29th ditto.
4	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensing ...	Ditto ...	29th ditto.
5	"Moorsheadabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	30th ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	30th ditto.
7	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto.
8	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	1st April.
9	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	1st ditto.
10	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	2nd ditto.
11	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	2nd ditto.
12	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
13	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	3rd ditto.
14	"Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
15	"Sáptáthik Samáchár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
16	"Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	30th March and 3rd April 1876.
17	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	28th ditto to 3rd "
18	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto to 4th "
19	"Bangavidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	4th April 1876.
20	"Urdu Guide" ( <i>in Urdu</i> ) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	1st ditto.
21	"Behár Bandhu" ( <i>in Hindi</i> ) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
22	"Jám-Jehán-numá" ( <i>in Persian</i> ) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.